

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for allowing a calling party to initiate a telephone call from an Internet-enabled device, the apparatus comprising a server for receiving an originating telephone number and a destination telephone number in response to a command from the Internet-enabled device, for generating a call request, and for transmitting the request to a telecommunications network to request the network to establish a connection between the originating telephone number and the destination telephone number.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a database in communication with the server, the database having stored therein the call request.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a database in communication with the server, the database having stored therein at least one telephone number.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the telecommunications network includes an advanced intelligent network (AIN).

5. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a communications network for connecting the Internet-enabled device to the server.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the Internet-enabled device is selected from the group consisting of a personal computer, an Internet appliance, a personal digital assistant, a WAP-enabled device, and an interactive pager.

7. A method of enabling a calling party to initiate a telephone call from an Internet-enabled device, the method comprising:

receiving a request from the Internet-enabled device to initiate the telephone call;
receiving an originating telephone number;
receiving a destination telephone number; and

transmitting a call request containing the originating telephone number and the destination telephone number to a telecommunications network to request the network to establish a connection between the originating telephone number and the destination telephone number.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein receiving an originating telephone number includes receiving an originating telephone number from the Internet-enabled device.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein receiving a destination telephone number includes receiving a destination telephone number from the Internet-enabled device.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein receiving a destination telephone number includes receiving a destination telephone number from a database.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein receiving an originating telephone number includes receiving an originating telephone number from a database.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein transmitting a call request containing the originating telephone number and the destination telephone number to a telecommunications network includes transmitting the call request to an advanced intelligent network (AIN).

13. The method of claim 7, further comprising receiving one of an IP address and an email address of the Internet-enabled device.

14. The method of claim 7, further comprising accepting a personal identification number (PIN) from the Internet-enabled device.

15. An apparatus for allowing a calling party to initiate a telephone call from an Internet-enabled device, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a request from the Internet-enabled device to initiate the telephone call;

means for receiving an originating telephone number;

means for receiving a destination telephone number; and

means for transmitting a call request containing the originating telephone number and the destination telephone number to a telecommunications network to request the network to establish a connection between the originating telephone number and the destination telephone number.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a database for storing at least one of the originating and the destination telephone numbers.

17. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising means for preventing unauthorized access to the apparatus.

18. A system for allowing a calling party to initiate a telephone call from an Internet-enabled device, the system comprising:

a telecommunications network;

an IP network in communication with the Internet-enabled device; and

a server for receiving an originating telephone number and a destination telephone number in response to a command from the Internet-enabled device, for generating a call request, and for transmitting the request to the telecommunications

network to request the network to establish a connection between the originating telephone number and the destination telephone number.

19. The system of claim 18, further comprising a database for storing the call request.

20. The system of claim 18, further comprising a database having stored therein at least one of the originating and the destination telephone numbers.

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